REMARKS

By this amendment, claims 2-44 are canceled. Examination on the merits of the instant application is respectfully requested.

Date: March 22, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

Jeffrey M. Cox

Registration No. 50,695

BANNER & WITCOFF, LTD. 10 S. Wacker Drive, Suite 3000

Chicago, IL 60606-7407 Telephone: 312-463-5000

Facsimile: 312-463-5001